



SOUTH CAROLINA  
Infant Mental Health  
ASSOCIATION

Dear Representative Smith,

First, I want to thank you for introducing funding for Safe Babies Courts in the House budget. As CEO of SC Infant Mental Health Association, I am deeply committed to bringing Safe Babies Courts to our state. The benefits to young children and their families are nothing short of life changing.

I am writing with additional details regarding our request for state funds to support Safe Babies Court as requested. The funds requested would serve as seed money to establish Safe Babies Courts in three counties. Startup costs to get the evidence-based program in operation include personnel, training, travel, and resources for participating families. We are actively engaged in conversations with other private funders including Duke Endowment, who are interested in supporting the Safe Babies Court model. We are also starting conversations with local court administration about rolling Safe Babies Courts into the same model and funding sources as Mental Health Courts and Drug Courts.

The current budget request is the funding needed to get Safe Babies Courts established in additional counties in the coming year to demonstrate efficacy in South Carolina courts. We understand the funding would be one-time money and recognize that any continuation would have to be discussed further next year if more state funds were needed.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can offer that would be helpful in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Kerrie L. Schnake*

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